

VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2020



CLOSING THE GAP AND RAISING THE BAR

SUMMER

Meeting the team

Cris Ford

Hello, I'm Cris

Ford the B&D Virtual School Advisory Teacher based in Kent. I support the B&D CIC cohort resident Kent and Medway.



The young people I support may be in foster care, residential care, mainstream or independent specialist schools, Secure Training Centres or Young Offender Institutions.

I moved to the Kent coast from East London with my family in 2006. Before my move I worked for the B&D Looked After Children's Health and Education Service (LACHES) for two years in borough and Essex. Following my move, I began the work exclusively supporting our young people in Kent and Medway.

Whilst in Kent I have built up a useful network of professional colleagues and peers. I also have a positive and supportive relationships with KCC and Medway SEN and Admissions teams.

As a Designated Teacher for your school, you may have a young person who is moving to Kent or Medway, or you might be receiving a young person moving from there. If either is the case for you, please feel free to contact me and I will do all I can to support such a transition.

If you are a Kent or Medway DT, you probably know me already, but if not, please get in touch to link up.

Cris Ford | Advisory Teacher

Kent & Medway Cohort

LBBDD Virtual School | Education Core

cris.ford@lbbd.gov.uk

EPEP IN COVID 19

We have streamlined ePEP to ensure it reflects the current situation, including additional questions for the young people to ensure they are ok

- We have planned virtual training sessions on ePEP for school and social care colleagues
- Training videos on the current streamlined PEP has been circulated and is also available on our website
- PEPs have continued virtually using teams or skype

COVID 19

Part of the spring and summer term had everyone embracing the new normal due to coronavirus as schools were shut and remote working and remote learning became the new normal.



OUR RESPONSE

- Prior to full lockdown the Virtual School led training for social care colleagues on ePEP
- Information about online learning resources were sent to carers and social workers
- An audit was carried out to ascertain the availability of computers and technical support to UASC
- The Virtual School implemented additional PP+ funding requests as received for appropriate ICT equipment for LAC
- Face-to-face tuition was moved online for those who required it

We are here to offer further support so please feel free to get in touch and let us know how we can support you.

TRAINING WITH MAGIC BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT TRAINER

The 14th March was our last face to face designated teachers forum before the lockdown. The virtual school was delighted to have behaviour management experts Marie and Katie who were previously heads at a PRU that was rated by Ofsted as Outstanding as our trainers.

These two ladies explored dealing with challenging behaviour. It was a great learning experience as they focused on the 3 steps to effectively dealing with behaviour which is

- Containment
- Behaviour as Communication
- Behaviour Management

It was both engaging and reflective as DT's reflected on their practice and highlighted areas that can be strengthened in their behaviour management approach



DEALING WITH THE IMPACT OF COVID 19

THE PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY.

Some at this time might be dealing with grief.

Below are Support Services that you can direct both young people and their carers to:

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

www.cruse.org.uk/get-help

HOPE ALIVE

www.hopeagain.org.uk

